

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 22 February, 2011 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

Present: Terry Spilsbury, Wesley Van Velsor, Eric Lutz, Carol Clark, Alternate Aare Ilves

Absent: Barbara Jones, Joyce Higgins

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chairperson Terry Spilsbury. In the absence of Barbara Jones and Joyce Higgins, Aare Ilves was seated as alternate. Sue Richardson was welcomed as a guest observer.

1. Aare made a motion that the minutes for the 25 January, 2011 meeting be approved. It was seconded by Wes and unanimously passed.
2. Aare Ilves explained that expenses so far this fiscal year were for data entry costs and postage relative to the Charlestown Third History project. These costs were roughly \$200.00 in January and another \$220.00 is expected for February.
3. Terry addressed the upcoming Warrant Article request and stated that the wording for this Warrant Article is the same as last year's Warrant Article, and that this new appropriation will expire Dec. 31, 2012. This year's Warrant Article will be voted on in March.
4. It was stated that there was not much news to report regarding the Third History project, but the sub-committee was trying to get in touch with all businesses in Charlestown in order to accurately write their stories. Joyce is researching historic buildings that have been lost since 1954.
5. Aare handed out a list of possible locations for the proposed benches and gave an overview on the project to date. He stated that we will probably focus on public land with the fewest possible impediments to select initial bench placement locations. Terry led the discussion on future bench locations and indicated that the benches will be fastened to the ground in some fashion, bolted onto a concrete pad or pavers with straight edges on a sand pad. Spacing between the benches and sidewalk was discussed, as well as bench placement orientation, keeping in mind that they need to blend with other projects completed by the Tree Commission. The sub-committee plans to go to the Selectboard at the end of April or early May, so members were asked to bring bench sample ideas for the next Heritage Commission meeting, allowing the sub-committee to take the ideas and construct bench layout and prices for the Heritage Commission's April meeting. The subject of waste baskets was brought up, along with trash collection and cost, but it was decided that we will not do further research on waste baskets at this point.
6. Carol read a letter from Barbara Jones regarding trust funds and possible grants regarding the funding of curbing and landscaping for the Bridge Street intersection. Eric has already spoken to Dave Edkins in the Town office regarding paperwork for general grant applications. The option of a request from the Claremont Savings Bank foundation was also raised. Eric said that the

work on curbing and landscaping will be approx. \$700.-\$800. for the stone and wondered if we could ask the town to install this for us.

7. Terry gave an update regarding the 7th grade essay contest and said that the teacher asked the Commission to come up with more than one possible topic for the essay. The teacher said she would make it a core assignment for 7th grade English, but would let the student choose whether they submit their essay to the Heritage Commission or not. Topics on the table included research on notable people from Charlestown, the interview of a long-term Charlestown resident, or what Charlestown might have been like for a decade in the mid 1900's. It was suggested that the essay be a minimum and maximum number of pages, typed and double spaced. Terry will deliver these ideas to the 7th grade teacher and respond back to the Commission.

8. Eric stated that approximately 130 people attended the fund raiser for the Fort at #4, with half the ticket price going to the Fort and the other half to the Common Man restaurant. He said that the Fort's projects for the year were mostly set at this time and they would welcome as many volunteers as possible. The overseers of the Fort at #4 are in the fund-raising mode and are estimating their budget for 2011.

9. Eric stated that he went to Brenda Ferland, following up on the letter that the Heritage Commission sent the Selectboard in 2010 regarding the housing of the cannon. She stated that the Selectboard has already made a decision on the placement of the cannon, and it is to be encased west of the new Police Station next to the flag pole.

10. It was noted that the town has seen fit to put \$5,000. in their budget request to work on the library building in 2011. They will need to look for a mason who would analyze the color and type of the lime-based mortar, which is disappearing from between the bricks and stones of the library. At this juncture, the Heritage Commission does not have resources to fund this effort, but will help in finding a mason or engineer to assist in the project and keep focus on this work.

Eric stated that there are 56 windows in the Town Hall that need work and a number of them cannot close properly, with a number of them having added plexiglass. There have been previous estimates to fix or replace the windows, running approximately \$600.-\$700. a window to repair and double that cost to replace. The Town's Capital Appropriations Committee said that this project falls under their purview, and the Heritage Commission made no recommendations at this point other than to say that this Commission's overall mission also supports this project.

11. Eric will write an article for the next edition of Our Town regarding the Town's buildings that are in need of maintenance and repair. Aare will write an article for the subsequent issue regarding the area by the bulletin board.

12. Terry suggested that it might be helpful if we wrote a letter to the Recreation Committee with a copy to the Selectboard stating that we appreciated the flooding of the Swan Common area, which provided an ice skating rink this year, reviving a tradition of pond hockey and ice skating in the center of our village.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for March 22, 7:00 pm at the Bakery building. If Terry is not able to be present, Eric has offered to chair the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Carol Clark
Secretary
Approved minutes